

STREET LIGHT CUT OFF, NEW YORKERS GROPE IN DARK

Indignant People Protest That
They Are Made Prey of
Gunmen and Thieves.

NO SAFETY AFTER DARK.

Greenwich Citizens Will Hold
Mass Meeting—Williams
Explains City Economy.

With New York in the throes of one of the worst crime waves in years—at a time when the police station blotters contain almost daily record of the activities of gunmen and fresh bomb outcrops—the city, in its campaign of reformation and economy, has found it advisable to extinguish the street lamps on many of the gang infested streets of Manhattan.

Accompanied by three indignant and protesting members of the Greenwich Village Public Service Committee, an Evening World reporter last night made a tour of the narrow, winding, crooked streets of the lower west side. The investigation brought the party through a district within a stone's

throw of the spot where Barnett Batt was brought down by the bullets of gangsters two weeks ago.

Not more than a few strides from the former club house of the notorious Hudson Dusters, at No. 633 Hudson street, were entire blocks plunged in inky blackness by the city's economy in extinguishing the only two gas lamps on each block. The residents were dependent entirely on the fitful sputter of the avenue arc lights in feeling their way to and from their homes.

In this district the residents, now thoroughly aroused, will plan to meet the situation at a mass meeting which has been called by Dr. Edwin Zimmerman, President of the Greenwich Public Service Committee, at the club house, No. 251 West Eleventh Street, to-morrow night. A committee will be appointed to call on the Board of Aldermen and on Mayor Mitchell before he signs the 1915 budget, already passed by the Board of Estimate, to ask that the half million dollars cut from the appropriation of Commissioner Williams of the Department of Water Supply, Gas and Electricity be partially restored.

It is because of the cut in his appropriation, which last year totaled \$3,500,000, that Commissioner Williams has been forced to economize on the city lighting. There were two ways to meet the situation, he explains: Either to reduce the number of illuminating units or to devise a cheaper form of illumination. He has done both.

PEOPLE MISS HUNDREDS OF THEIR LIGHTS.

Besides the thousands of gas lamps extinguished, on the ground, as Commissioner Williams explains, that "they are not needed because of the proximity of electric lights," the city in the last six weeks has extinguished 260 of the 6,600 powerful 400-watt standard arc lights in Manhattan. Close to one hundred have been ordered out in the Bronx and as many in Brooklyn. In spite of a storm of protest from taxpayers in all three boroughs, the number of letters of complaint already received totals many hundreds.

While the Greenwich Villagers are planning their mass meeting, the east side is preparing its protest through Alderman Nugent of the Eighteenth District. At the meeting of the Board of Aldermen to-morrow Nugent will introduce a resolution demanding that the extinguished gas and arc lights be restored. He has already taken his case personally before Commissioner Williams without redress.

"My district," Alderman Nugent declared to-day, "runs from Fifty-sixth Street to Seventy-fourth, between Third Avenue and the East River. Two gas lights have been ordered out of every block of these side streets, with the exception of Fifty-seventh Street, illuminated by electricity. The lights extinguished invariably have been those nearest the avenues. The principal complainants have been the storekeepers, who assert their business is being hurt by the lack of sufficient light."

GREENWICH AT MERCY OF THE GUNMEN.
Dr. Zimmerman, who as a physician uses the darkened streets of Greenwich Village at all hours of the night, presented the case of the lower west side residents. "This section, overrun as it is by gangsters and gunmen, is no longer safe for our wives and children, now that the number of lights on the isolated side streets has been reduced. Hitherto light has been our greatest medium of protection—without it we have no alternative but to confine our families to their homes after nightfall. Enough money is collected on taxes in this metropolis to make it the best lighted city in the world. But it is far from that."

"Unless the street lights are restored every respectable man in Greenwich Village will be forced to apply for a license to carry a gun," declared Charles W. Calkin, Democratic leader of the Fifth Assembly District. Calkin lives in Jane Street, between Eighth Avenue and Hudson Street. Both street lights on his block have been removed.

On Greenwich Street, between Jane and Fourteenth streets, an Evening World reporter found that practically the only illumination on the five blocks was provided by the red lanterns put up by a construction company installing a new third-rail system on the Ninth Avenue Elevated Road. The light from several arc lamps is almost entirely hidden by the timber supports put up in the street by the construction company. These wide timbers provide numerous recesses offering exceptional hiding places for the highwayman.

COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS SAYS CITY MUST REDUCE.

Discussing the city's policy in extinguishing "unnecessary" lights, Commissioner Williams said to a reporter for The Evening World to-day: "The city is saving to-day in lighting bills at the rate of from \$25,000 to \$30,000 per annum on superfluous gas lights so extinguished. The department has no intention of turning out any light which can be termed necessary in any true sense of the word. At a time when the city is borrowing money at an average cost of 6 per cent. per annum it does not seem proper that it should be paying for unnecessary lights."

"It was shown that on Manhattan Island there were some 600 arc lights which, without detriment, could be dispensed with. Each arc light is costing at least \$90 per annum, and that makes a saving of \$54,000 per annum. The whole lighting of New York City is in a state of transition owing to the expected early introduction of the new gas-filled or nitrogen lamp. One of the best lighted streets in the world today is Seventh Avenue north of One Hundred and Tenth Street, and for some fifty blocks these new lights can be seen. Six pairs of the new lights can be seen also on Fifty-ninth Street, near the Plaza Hotel. There are some on Seventh Avenue and Broadway, immediately north of Times Square."

Fifth Avenue, between Washington Square and Twenty-third Street, also is feeling the effects of the administration's campaign of economy in street lighting. Where there were formerly six powerful arc lights to a block, there are now only four. The two centre lights on each block have been ordered out.

REALISM.

(From the Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.)
A certain fiction writer applied to a friend, an interne in a hospital, for some local color for a tale he had based upon an occurrence in such an institution. The interne couldn't think of anything of moment, but the writer jogged his memory thus:
"Surely you know of some realistic bit here, for I could not find one."

"I have it!" suddenly exclaimed the interne.
"Yes," eagerly came from the writer.
"Here is realism with a vengeance," said the youthful interne. "One of our patients is a man who, because he

For Rashes and Irritations



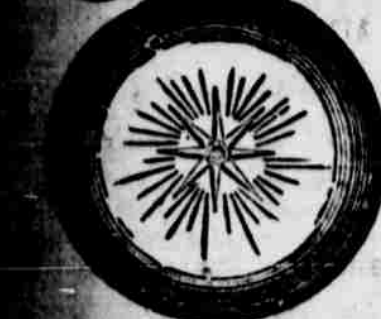
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— Leo Hayman and Children's Orchestra

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Contralto and Baritone

Serenade (Sing, Smile, Slumber) — Chas. Gounod
Alexander Rodel

Hungarian Dance No. 5 — Brahms-Joschim
Albert Kaufman

The Butterfly (La F. Faletta)
— Mary Chase (Vocal Solo)

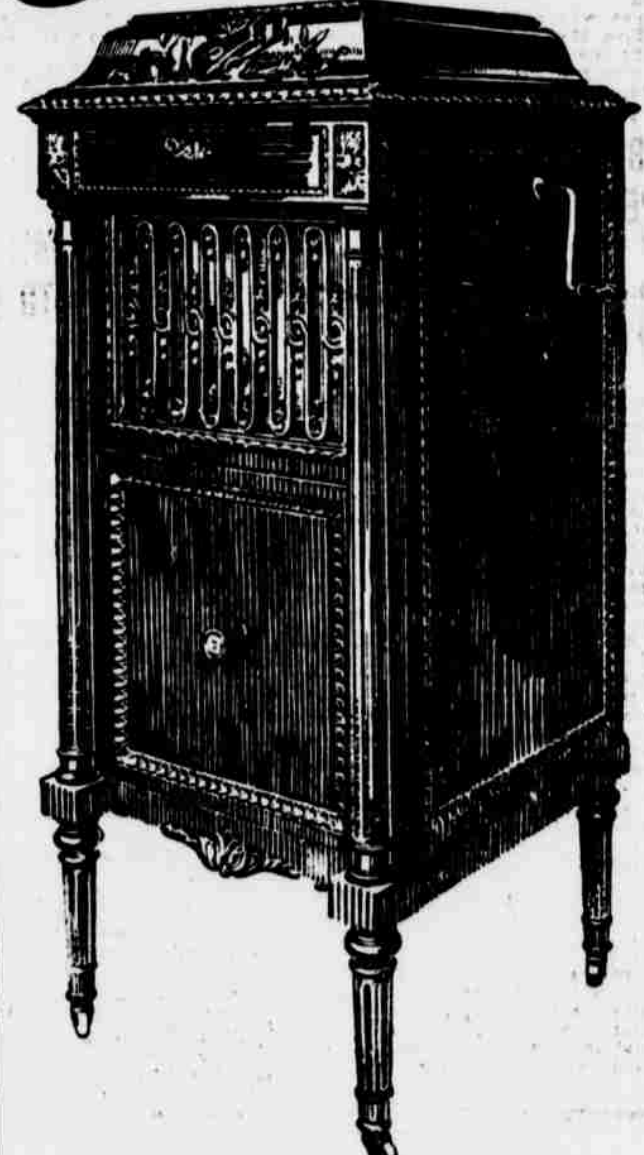
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